TL 7142

ACFOA HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE
124 NAPIER ST. FITZROY 3065
AUSTRALIA TEL. (03) 419 5588

URGENT ACTION MEMO
30 September 1986

East Timorese detentions

Summary

This month (September), 3 East Timorese university students have disappeared after being detained by the Indonesian authorities in Jakarta. The students' names are: Antonino Goncalves, Joao Freitas Da Camara, and Francisco Fernandes Carvalho. A fourth student, Benedicto Goncalves, is also reported to have been detained but there is no independent confirmation of this. Amnesty International has issued action alerts regarding the first three. Enquiries by the Australian Government and others have yielded no information as to who detained them, why, their whereabouts or welfare. Grave fears are held for them. A separate report alleges that 6 East Timorese men were detained in Atsabe, East Timor, probably in August, and that they are being held in Dili. No confirmation of this report is available.
Everything possible should be done to publicise these reports and to multiply formal enquiries of concern through government and non-government channels.

Confirmed details

Antonino Goncalves, 34, from Atsabe, East Timor, a final year law student at Atmajaya university in Jakarta, was arrested in Jakarta on 3 September 1986.
According to Amnesty International sources, he was drinking coffee with two fellow students at Atmajaya university at about 10.30 am on 3 September when three men in civilian clothes, believed to be from Indonesian military intelligence, arrested him.
Antonino Goncalves had been a sergeant in the Portuguese army when Indonesia invaded East Timor in 1975. He was active in the armed resistance to the Indonesian occupation of the territory until 1978 when he either surrendered or was captured. His parents, his wife, and his wife's parents all died in the East Timorese bush that year, leaving him with no known immediate family. He received a scholarship to study in Jakarta in 1981 and is currently in his final year of law school.

Joao Freitas Da Camara, 29, from Suai, East Timor, a final year law student at Atmajaya university, was arrested at midnight on 16 September 1986.

Francisco Fernandes Carvalho, 30, from Uatocarbao, East Timor, an engineering student at Atmajaya university, was arrested at 5.00 am on 17 September. Like Joao Da Camara he is single and has been studying in Jakarta since 1981.

The ACFOA Human Rights sub-committee is confident that these arrests have occurred. However it is not knownwhere the three men are being held, by whom, or on what grounds. Like Amnesty International the sub-committee is concerned the three may be tortured during interrogation and is calling on the Indonesian authorities to make known their whereabouts and charges against them and to ensure they are humanely treated and have access to friends and lawyers. They are the first arrests of East Timorese by the Indonesian authorities outside East Timor.

Unconfirmed details

Benedicto Goncalves. According to Agence France Presse in Jakarta (see Melbourne Sun, 24 September 1986), a fourth student, Benedicto

Goncalves, like Antonino Goncalves a relative of the former governor of East Timor, Guilhermo Goncalves, has also been arrested. The AFP report suggests this detention took place on 6 September, possibly in East Timor. The report further suggests that Benedicto and the other three students listed above were arrested after weapons and explosives were found in East Timor. No independent confirmation of this report is available.
Enquiries should be made to establish the veracity or otherwise of these claims.

Six in East Timor. Reports from East Timor allege that six young East Timorese men were arrested during a raid by Indonesian military on a Church in Atsabe, East Timor, reportedly prompted by the discovery of weapons in the Atsabe area. The six are believed to be detained in Dili. As with Benedicto Goncalves, no independent confirmation is available or details as to names, charges, procedures, or conditions.
Enquiries should also be made about these allegations.

Recommended action

Urgent enquiries should be made

* seeking official confirmation of all reported detentions;
* expressing concern that torture may be used;
* urging that whereabouts and charges be made known;
* urging that access be given to lawyers and friends.

to

* General Murdani,
  Hankam,
  Jl. Merdeka Barat,
  Jakarta, Indonesia.
* Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja,
  Foreign Minister,
  Jl. Taman Prejambon 6,
  Jakarta. Indonesia.
* Indonesian diplomatic representative in your country.

  Australia: Ambassador August Marpaung,
  8 Darwin Avenue,
  Yarralumla, ACT 2600.
* Minister for Foreign Affairs in your country.

  Australia: Mr Bill Hayden,
  Foreign Minister,
  Parliament House,
  Canberra, ACT 2600.
* Parliamentarians requesting they make formal enquiries.

Pat Walsh

Encls: Press reports
Australian Government statement.

Murdani's elite force abducts East Timorese law student

By ROBIN OSBORNE and Reuters . AUSTRALIAN 12/9/86

INDONESIA'S influential armed forces newspaper yesterday declared the controversy with Australia over landing permits for military aircraft was over, and that it had nothing to do with a book by an Australian academic examining the economic role of the armed forces in Indonesian trade.

"The confusion over landing permits for the RAAF is finished," Harian AB said in an editorial.

It said the issue had been cleared up during a meeting on Monday between armed forces chief, General Benny Murdani, and the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia, Mr Bill Morrison.

The paper said it was the right of any country to grant or refuse landing permits. This was now accepted by the Australian Government.

Indonesia last week appeared to be triggering a new row in its sensitive relations with neighbouring Australia when it informed the embassy in Jakarta that Australian military aircraft would no longer be given landing permission. The aircraft fly to a base in Malaysia.

But it reversed the decision at Monday's meeting, saying Australia, as before, could apply for permits on "a case by case basis".

Executions

After a dramatic abduction in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, an East Timorese law student has been taken to a secret location where he is being held incommunicado.
Friends fear he may have been tortured.

The Australian has learned that the operation is the work of the elite Red Beret force, developed by General Murdani.

Red Beret commandos, wearing mufti, are generally held responsible for the street executions of about 4000 people in Java.

Strong evidence also suggests they were the killers of Irian Jayan ethnologist, Mr Arnold Ap.

Antonio Goncalves, 34, was in the cafeteria of Jakarta's Catholic-run Atmajaya University in Jakarta last week, when three military intelligence officers in plain clothes bundled him into a car, whose number plate was recorded by student onlookers.

There has been no news of him since, despite inquiries by the Australian and US embassies in Jakarta.

Mr Morrison has a long-standing friendship with General Murdani and is in regular contact with him.

But an early response to Australia seems unlikely, given the present feelings of the Indonesian military.

Special forces abduct two more students in Jakarta

By ROBIN OSBORNE AUSTRALIAN 23/9/86

TWO more East Timorese university students have been abducted in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta by military intelligence officers from the elite Kopassuf Special Forces Command, known commonly as the Red Berets.

The men, Mr Joao da Camara, 29, in final-year law, and Mr Francisco Carvalho, 30, an engineering student, were dragged from their homes in the early hours of the morning late last week.

They have not been heard of since, and attempts by relatives to find their whereabouts have failed. The Indonesian Prosecutor is unaware of charges having been laid.

Amnesty International has issued an "Urgent Action" over the men's disappearance, which followed a similar abduction the previous week when a law student, Mr Antonio Goncalves, was seized by plainclothes Red Beret troops in the cafeteria of Jakarta's Catholic-run Atmajaya University. He has not surfaced since, despite pleas by Amnesty and inquiries by the Australian Embassy.

Like many East Timorese, the missing three were former supporters of the Fretilin independence movement.

Fears that they have been tortured, or perhaps even killed, should be taken seriously, an Amnesty International expert on Indonesia told *The Australian* yesterday.

"The Red Berets are widely held responsible for executing about 4000 alleged petty criminals in Java in the early 1980s," the source said.

The SUN WEDNESDAY 24-9-86

TIMOR GUN ARRESTS

JAKARTA, Tues., AFP — Indonesian authorities have arrested four students from East Timor after weapons and explosives were found, a source said today.

The source said there had been no news of the students since their arrests.

The weapons were similar to those used by Fretilin forces.

Antonio Goncalves, son of a former governor of Dili, and Benedicto Goncalves, a nephew of the ex-governor, were arrested.

TL7142-2

AUSTRALIA

MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CANBERRA

25 SEP 1986

Senator G.D. McIntosh,
Parliament House,
CANBERRA A.C.T. 2600.

Dear Gordon,

I refer to the concern you expressed during the Adjournment Debate on 22 September about the welfare of three East Timorese students, Antonio Gonsalvez, Francisco Carhalvo and Joao da Camara.

In general, the Government seeks to ensure that expressions of concern it makes on behalf of persons allegedly arrested or detained are well based. For this reason, our Embassy has been conducting active and thorough enquiries about the three students and will continue to do so. In view of your strong interest in this case, however, I have, in addition, instructed our Embassy in Jakarta to register with Indonesian authorities the concern felt in Australia for the welfare of the three men.

Yours sincerely,

GARETH EVANS